

MINUTES



Addison Central School District

Policy Committee

Committee Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2023, 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

208 Charles Avenue, Middlebury VT & Virtual Connection

ACSD District Vision and Mission

OUR VISION

Our vision is for all ACSD students to reach their full learning potential, have a sense of belonging in our schools, and enrich our community and the communities where they live in the future.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide high-quality, equitable, and varied learning environments that inspire a passion for learning and growth among our students.

A. Call to Order Upon Reaching a Quorum The Meeting was called to order at 5:15PM

1. Introductions - Board Members, Administrators and Staff

Present: Suzanne Buck, Jamie McCallum, Joanna Doria, Lindsey Hescock

B. Public Comment - Agenda Items

Mary Slosar wanted to share thoughts on A30. Currently, it puts the responsibility on the Superintendent. She hopes the board would develop their own processes for policy review. She also wonders about district practices and if they could be documented, recorded, and available to the public.

C. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of September 25, 2023

The minutes are approved

Move: Jamie McCallum Second: Lindsey Hescock Status: Passed

D. Committee Discussion:

Suzanne remembers from the last meeting that our work is to perform a review of all the district's current A Policies. Tim has moved all of today's draft policies onto ACSD stationary.

1. A1: Board Member Conflict

Linsdey notices the date of the VSBA review- Aug 15, 2023. There is consensus that the committee discussed this policy last month. Jamie brings up the procedure part of the policy and wonders if there should be a separation. Suzanne will reach out to VSBA as this is a required policy, so should be adopted as-is. We hold on this one and will not send this one to the full board.

2. A20: Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution

Suzanne notes the addition Dr. Williams made to the VSBA model policy which is just the town names. Joanna highlights the Agenda Preparation paragraph and notes the significant departure from our current policy. Lindsey looks at our current A8 and likes a lot of the language, notably the Executive Committee work and the relationship to the Superintendent. Joanna also is concerned that there is no mention of committees; if the hope is to retire all of our current A policies, we should be thoughtful about what we are losing.

Suzanne says that Superintendent Williams informed her that VSBA is advising that school districts should not have policies that are not VSBA models ones. Jamie asks about the power of enforcement. Suzanne is going to clarify on Thursday. Linsdey is concerned that if that's the case, it would significantly change the committee's work. Suzanne says that Robert's Rules reflects committee formation, so committees would be covered there (in response to Joanna's concern.) Lindsey wants to make sure we have clarity on what parts of Robert's Rules apply. Suzanne says that the more you put into policy, the more prescribed it becomes. Lindsey would like to hold on to some of the language of our current A8 which says three board members can add an agenda item. Jamie volunteers to pull valuable/useful language from our current A8 to save. Upon Lindsey's concern Suzanne is going to ask VSBA how to separate out the procedure language.

3. A21: Public Participation at Board Meetings

Suzanne is going to reach out to VSBA again to confirm that the Family Engagement Toolkit information was not meant to show up in policy. According to the AOE, this resource was not mean to be codified in policy.

We start with the understanding that this policy does not need to go to the full board. Lindsey asks about the procedure that might have been developed in

reaction to the board adopting A21 in Nov 2022. Suzanne would like to bring it back to the board because we removed the two words: procedure needed.

4. A22: Notice of Non-Discrimination

Joanna notices the explicit language about procedure development. Lindsey questions the responsibility of procedure. Jamie asks about the sentence “A person has been designated...” and questions the meaning. Suzanne notes a few Administrators that have this responsibility but it’s still unclear about the procedures, in general. Jamie says this policy is just the law. Joanna says that the procedure should be reviewed along with the policy. She thinks that the responsibility is ours. Lindsey suggests, for transparency reasons, that we should have the procedure connected to the policy. Suzanne is going to ask Superintendent Williams for a report. Lindsey would like to be proactive about questions that might arise about the procedure. Joanna highlights the word: accompany. Shouldn’t the committee know what is accompanying the policy? Lindsey recognizes that we are in a more solid footing with regard to electronic organization and that asking for procedures to be posted might be an easier lift than before. We will advance this one to the full board.

5. A23: Community Engagement and Vision

Suzanne echoes what she said before about the Family Engagement Toolkit—that it wasn’t meant for individual districts instead it was only meant for the State’s use. Jamie did not expect it to become policy. He meant it to be used as a toolkit. Joanna thinks Family Engagement should be revisited under section E, not section A, and feels strongly that the committee needs to discuss a Family Engagement policy. She notes the significant discrepancies that are happening across the district. Lindsey notes that engagement might be a buzzword right now. Jamie says that it’s up to us to make it meaningful. Lindsey asks about the consistency of grammar and wants to be sure we are presenting written material with consistent grammar. There was discussion about how the Strategic Plan aligns with this policy. Joanna would like to see the Community Engagement Committee review this policy before we bring it to the full board for review. Jamie agrees that they could give feedback. Joanna thinks the policy needs more after the second paragraph. There is general consensus that this will be presented, as is, to the full board for a first read.

6. A24: Board/Superintendent Relationship

7. A30: Role and Adoption of School Board Policies

8. A31: Board Member Education

E. Public Comment - Any Topic

Mary Slosar speaks up how she thinks the Family Engagement conversation needs to keep happening.

F. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 6:24 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Doria

Move: Jamie McCallum Second: Joanna Doria Status: Passed

*Public Comment Guidelines:

Public comments are encouraged and welcome at each regular board meeting during the period designated for public comment. Comments are limited to three minutes per person. Citizens will be called to make their statement by the board chair. Public comments regarding personnel, students or legal matters will not be heard by the Board.